

REMARKS

Prior to a calculation of fees and a first examination of the divisional application filed herewith, please enter the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-31, 51-74, and 94-105 have been cancelled without prejudice by this preliminary amendment. Accordingly claims 32-50 and 75-93 are currently pending in this divisional application. Of the pending claims, claims 32, 39, 75, and 89 are independent claims. Applicant believes no new matter has been added by this paper.

I) Divisional Application

The application papers filed herewith are a true copy of the prior complete application filed on November 01, 2000 having Serial Number 09/704,439. This divisional application is filed under Rule 1.53(b) and claims the benefit of the Patent Application No. 09/704,439 filed November 01, 2000 under 35 U.S.C. 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a).

The parent patent application further claims the benefit of the following: U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/162,936 entitled "OPTICAL CROSSCONNECT WITH OPTICAL TO ELECTRICAL CONVERTERS" filed on November 2, 1999 by inventor Rajiv Ramaswami; and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/170,094 entitled "OPTICAL CROSSCONNECT WITH BRIDGING, TEST ACCESS AND REDUNDANCY" filed on December 10, 1999 by inventors Rajiv Ramaswami and Robert Ward; and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/170,095 entitled "OPTICAL CROSSCONNECT WITH LOW-LOSS BRIDGING, TEST ACCESS, AND REDUNDANCY" filed on December 10, 1999 by inventors Steven Clark and Rajiv Ramaswami; and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No.

60/170,093 entitled "1+1 OPTICAL PROTECTION USING OPTICAL CROSSCONNECTS" filed on December 10, 1999 by inventors Rajiv Ramaswami and Robert Ward; and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/170,092 entitled "SIGNALING INTERFACE BETWEEN OPTICAL CROSSCONNECT AND ATTACHED EQUIPMENT" filed on December 10, 1999 by inventor Rajiv Ramaswami; and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/186,108 entitled "1:N PROTECTION BETWEEN CLIENTS AND ALL-OPTICAL CROSSCONNECTS" filed on March 1, 2000 by inventors Kent Erickson, Subhashini Kaligotla, and Rajiv Ramaswami; and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/200,425 entitled "OPTICAL CROSSCONNECT SYSTEM" filed on April 28, 2000 by inventors Rajiv Ramaswami, Steve Tabaska, and Robert Ward.

II) Specification

In the Cross-Reference to Related Applications section, on page 1, line 4, the paragraph therein has been amended to reflect the cross-noted applications to which this divisional patent application claims the benefit thereof.

III) Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action mailed on 02/13/2002 in the parent patent application, Claims 1-105 were restricted into four claim groups (I-IV) under 35 U.S.C. 121. The following is the four groupings of the claims:

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Group I : | Claims 1-21, 26-31, and 66-74 |
| Group II: | Claims 22-25, and 94-105 |
| Group III: | Claims 32-50, and 75-93 |
| Group IV: | Claims 51-65 |

In the parent patent application, Applicant elected and prosecuted claims 1-21, 26-31, and 66-74 of Group I and cancelled without prejudice claims in Groups II, III, and IV.

In this divisional application, original claims 32-50 and 75-93 of Group III are presented for a first examination on the merits.

As recited in the restriction requirement, Group III claims are drawn to "a method and apparatus for bridging optical signals in an optical network, classified in claims 359, subclass 118.

Accordingly, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-31, 51-64, and 94-105, corresponding to Groups I-II and IV claims, without prejudice in order to comply with the restriction requirement.

IV) Title

Applicant has amended the Title of the application.

It is believed that the amended Title of the application is in accordance with the invention being claimed and the search class of the restriction requirement.

CONCLUSION

A first examination of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

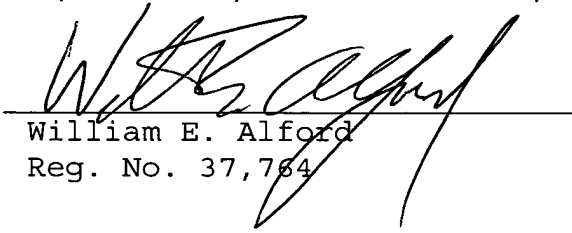
The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (714) 557-3800 should there be any questions.

Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

Dated: August 26, 2003



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